

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abboud, please. I am sorry, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. It will allow me to turn my light off, Mr. Speaker. I do rise to support the Moore and Smith amendment. I think it is fair. It is aimed at young people and first-time riders who are the most at risk, if you take a look at motorcycle statistics. It does not conflict with the general principle of the seat belts in that it is not a general principle for everyone or for adults. This is an area, for example, that we have in the case of child restraints or use of seat belts for those who are in a particular source of need, and I think there is a good analogy here to first-time riders and young riders. It surmounts for me the difficulty of the analogy with the seat belts and, lastly, I would like to point out that I appreciate the chance to be able to talk about this amendment on this day and have a chance to see if it will pass, having had the reconsideration pass a little earlier. I am going to support the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, a couple of brief remarks, we did consider this amendment on this bill earlier when the bill was on Final Reading. It was voted down at that time. The rationale that I held in not supporting the amendment first was that if the education was such a good idea and if education is something that should be desired, then why don't we have it in the statutes at this time, and also, more importantly, the statistics that show that so few Nebraskans are choosing the educational route in dealing with motorcycle safety. I could evaluate I think in the future as to whether or not this type of educational program would be beneficiary. I haven't really. I know in looking at it, I suppose the better the education, the better off you are, but if no one is taking the class at this time, I question how good the classes are. But, more importantly, I think it really avoids the issue of motorcycle helmets. The amendment is a two-part amendment in that it requires a 19-year-old individual to be wearing a helmet, and I think if we are going to be requiring it for a certain segment of society for the safety rationale, that same rationale for the 19-year olds to wear a helmet should be applied to all individuals in society. So I would urge the body to reject the amendment and move on to the bill. Thank you.